

## REMARKS

The present submission is in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 13, 2007.

### Status of Claims

In the Office Action mailed July 13, 2007, claims 1, 12, 23-27 and 34-38 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pain (USP 6,801,258). Claims 2-5, 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pain in view of Sauer (USP 5,973,311). Claims 6-11 and 17-22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pain in view of Sauer and further in view of Nishida (USP 4,996,600). Claims 28-33 and 39-44 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pain in view of Nishida. It is noted, however, that the Examiner did not reject either claim 45 or claim 46 over the prior art.

The Examiner rejected claims 45 & 46 under 35 USC 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner argued that there was no support in the specification for the language in claims 45 & 46 that “. . . each amplifier selector receives output from at least three unit cells”, though the Examiner conceded that there was support for “three unit cells”.

Claims 1-44, as amended herein, are pending.

### Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended at page 23 of the original application to introduce language that is employed in the amended claims. It is submitted that the added language is fully supported by Figs. 2 and 8 and the associated text, and so no new matter has been introduced into the application.

### Amendments to the Claims

Dependent claims 45 and 46 have been canceled.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the limitations of now-canceled claims 45 and 46, respectively.

Independent method claims 23 and 34 have been amended to recite a step related to the limitations of now-canceled claims 45 and 46. In particular, independent method claims 23 and 34 have been amended to recite the step of “supplying charge, via a first plurality of overlapping sets of column lines, each set comprising at least three column lines and each column line connected to unit cells belonging to a corresponding column, to a corresponding first plurality of amplifier selector circuits, each amplifier selector circuit configured to selectively steer charge supplied via a corresponding overlapping set of column lines to a plurality of amplifiers in response to a plurality of control signals.”

**The Examiner’s rejection under 35 USC 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph**

The Examiner’s rejection of now canceled claims 45 and 46 is traversed, to the extent it applies to pending claims 1, 12, 23 and 34. It is undisputed that the column selector embodiment seen in Fig. 8 shows a number of amplifier selectors  $AS_{1,2}$ ,  $AS_{3,4}$ , etc., each receiving, as input, a plurality of (in this case, three) of column lines  $col_1$ ,  $col_2$ ,  $col_3$ , etc. Fig. 2, which shows one embodiment of an amplifier selector, shows a single amplifier selector which receives three column lines. Applicant submits, therefore, that the shown embodiment supports the language “receives output from at least three unit cells.”

**Rejection Under 35 USC 103(a)**

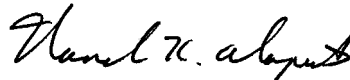
It is submitted that no combination of references renders obvious either apparatus claims 1 and 12 or method claims 23 and 34. As stated above, the Examiner did not reject now-canceled claims 45 and 46 based on prior art..

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1-44 are believed to be in allowable form and define over the cited references. An early notice of allowance is requested so that the application may proceed to issue.

A separate Request for Continued Examination is being submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

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